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A N N O U N C E M E N T

NWO/Spinoza A W A R D

Dorret Boomsma to receive NWO/Spinoza Award

The Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) has awarded its annual NWO/Spinoza award to Dorret Boomsma for her internationally acclaimed work in the fields of Behaviour Genetics and Twin Research. The ceremony with a testimonial of the laureates will be held in January 2002.

The NWO/Spinoza award, named after the Dutch philosopher Baruch de Spinoza (1632–1677), is the most prestigious award in the Dutch Science Community and has been nicknamed the national 'Nobel Prize' (the 1995 laureate Gerard 't Hooft went on to receive "the" Nobel Prize).

Dorret Boomsma was nominated by the Chancellors of the Vrije Universiteit on grounds of her excellent work on the statistical methodology of twin family studies and the successful use of a wide scope of psychophysiological phenotypes to support the links between genes and behavior. The laureate's work is held to meet the highest international standards and she is considered a worthy ambassador of Dutch science. Her relentless efforts have, furthermore, made the Dutch Twin Registry into one of the largest and most complete in the world, with 30,000 twin pairs enrolled.

Boomsma's research team has made significant contribution to the genetics of cognitive development and brain function, personality and psychopathology, nicotine and alcohol dependence, and stress and health. In structural equation modeling, Boomsma actively engaged in the development of the first multivariate models, power-analyses for QTL detection, and more recently the extension of the twin design with one or more siblings.

With this award, the fields of Behaviour Genetics and Twin Research receive a major boost in the Netherlands. The award comes with 3.3 million Dutch guilders (or 1.5 million Euro) that the laureate may spend to set up a research project of her choice. More importantly, the award is certain to attract the finest talent from the ranks of graduate and post-graduate students to enter our field.

Twin Research is proud to congratulate one of its associate editors and strong supporters on this eminent award, which brings great credit both to her and to the field.

Dorrett **BOOMSMA**



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S